

19 October 1950

Mr. Raymond T. Whearty,
Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee
on Internal Security,
2107 Department of Justice,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Whearty:

In reply to your letter of 1 September 1950, Central Intelligence Agency will support to the fullest extent possible, without revealing classified foreign intelligence, the program being established under the Department of Commerce for the voluntary control of the dissemination of unclassified technological information within the United States.

Liaison personnel are being designated for handling the requests from the Department of Commerce and, in accordance with your suggestion, I am writing the Secretary of Commerce to this effect under separate cover.

Sincerely yours,

19 October 1950

MEMO FOR RECORD:

i. Basic communication is letter from Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security, urging the "whole-hearted support and cooperation" of CIA in a program being established under the Department of Commerce by which, on their own initiative and voluntarily, representatives of industry, local governments, and others possessing unclassified scientific and technological information may receive expert opinion as to the advisability from the standpoint of national security of disseminating such information within the United States.

a. The Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security (ICIS) was created as a permanent committee under the National Security Council, responsible for coordinating all phases of internal security other than "coordination of the investigation of all domestic espionage, counter-espionage", etc., which was allocated to the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference (IIC).

b. The ICIS established five subcommittees of which one is the Subcommittee on Industrial Security. Attached to basic communication is the report of this subcommittee recommending the establishment of the program referred to above.

c. Under subject program, all requests from the public for expert opinion as to the wisdom, from a security point of

view, of releasing technological information, documents, etc., are to be addressed to the Department of Commerce. The latter will then refer the requests to the appropriate departments and agencies of the government for study. These in turn will render security opinions to the Department of Commerce which will then forward appropriate replies to the instigator of the requests.

- d. This program will supplement the Export Control Program which includes dissemination outside the United States of scientific and technological data.
- e. The examples on Pages 1-2 of the report attached to basic communication indicate that the requests which will be received by the Department of Commerce under the proposed program may also have definite intelligence value to CIA.

2. On 7 September 1960 basic communication was forwarded to COAPS, AD/OSI, I & S, AD/00, and AD/OCD. I & S were requested to prepare a reply for the signature of the DCI. Letter was received in OSI by [REDACTED] STATINTL who is CIA representative on an ICIS subcommittee and who had been requested by the Secretary ICIS to watch for this correspondence.